

pect with a bad record. He is taken to some station and held without booking. Then his friends dig up some money and get in touch with a go-between with a pull. Money is exchanged. The man is released without a rap.

Hoyne's men also received valuable information today concerning the mysterious gunman, who is said to have been scheduled to play an important part in the Randolph street shooting, but who bungled the job.

Two bullets from an ordinary 38 revolver started the pistol fight on Randolph street Wednesday in which Barney Bertsche, Bill Egan, Skip Monahan, Nathan Spira and two others were wounded.

Witnesses declare that there were two loud, distinct reports and then came the rattle of an automatic. Who fired the two opening shots? That's what State's Att'y Hoyne would like to know. The police claim Bertsche started the fight. But Bertsche had only an automatic. And there's no mistaking the difference between the sound of an automatic and an ordinary revolver.

From a reliable source comes the information that the police are concealing the name of the man who was walking east on Randolph st. with Bertsche when the fight started. The "dicks" claimed at first it was Nathan Spira, recently convicted in the arson trust cases.

On the other hand habitues of the "Rialto" claim there was a very well known police character with Bertsche; a man so "wise to the ropes" that the police were willing to let him get away after the pistol battle.

Then there's the mystery of the six shots that Egan, Monahan and Capt. Halpin can't account for. It was believed by every one that Egan had fired the six shots. But he says he didn't; that he didn't have his gun with him.

But there were six shots fired by some one in addition to those ac-

counted for. And there are some inclined to believe that as the case grows there will be found as sinister a plot to put some one "off watch" as the Rosenthal case in New York, which shocked the entire country. Hoyne is now searching for a South Side gunman.

But something went wrong with the local shooting mess. Some one apparently blundered. There have been much talk of gunmen out after Barney Bertsche. But he fooled them by staying in his room until late in the day usually and then only going out accompanied by a companion.

Barney Bertsche's attorney, Ben Short, will enter a conference with State's Att'y Hoyne this morning and has promised to tell what he knows of a well-formed plot to kill Bertsche.

"Barney told me his footsteps were hounded by certain cops accompanied by gunmen night and day," said Short. He refused to tell me the names of these policemen whom he knew. I know this to be true because these cops, two of whom are high in rank in the department, face jail as long as he is free."

"The shooting was the result of a well-planned, deliberate police plot to kill him and get him out of the way. That the shooting was premature is the only reason that he is alive and the plan originally was to entice him to a deserted building on the outskirts of the city, but the hired assassin spoiled it all when he pulled his gun on a crowded street."

"Evidence I have obtained," Mr. Hoyne said last night, "is to the effect that a gunman as yet not apprehended fired the first shot. That bullet struck Bertsche. Furthermore, I am of the belief that Nathan Spira, convicted firebug, did not fire any shots, in spite of the statements of Detectives 'Bill' Egan and James 'Skip' Monahan that a dark complected, pox-marked man—which fits Spira's description—shot at them to help Bertsche."

"I am of the opinion that Spira,